

LESSON



Let Them Come!

GRACE

God has made us part of His family.

References

Luke 18:15-17; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 511-517.

Memory Verse

"Let the little children come to me" (Luke 18:16, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that children are an important part of Jesus' family.

Feel that they belong to Jesus' family.

Respond by thanking Jesus for His love and care.

The Message



Jesus loves me! He wants me in His family!

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus enjoys being with the children. He invites them to come to Him, and He talks to them and listens to them. He hugs them and holds them on His lap. Jesus' disciples try to send the children away, but Jesus tells them to let them stay with Him, that children are an important part of His family.

This is a lesson about grace.

Jesus loved the children long ago, and He loves children today. He welcomes all, young or old, into His family.

Teacher Enrichment

"Among the Jews it was customary for children to be brought to some rabbi, that he might lay his hands upon them in blessing; but the Saviour's disciples thought His work too important to be interrupted in this way. . . . The Saviour understood the care and burden of the mothers who were seeking to train their children according to the word of God. He had heard their prayers. He Himself had drawn them into His presence. . . .

"Thus several mothers came to-

FIVE

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Baby Time</i> B. <i>"Jesus Loves Me" Plate</i> C. <i>Stay Away</i>	baby dolls and baby items, mother with a baby (optional) paper plates, pens/pencils/crayons, art supplies, hole punch, yarn or heavy string adults or teenagers
* Prayer and Praise *	up to 10	See page 53. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	older adults (optional)
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible, picture of Jesus (optional)
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Hugs From Jesus</i>	Jesus with children pictures (optional), "Run to Jesus" (<i>Little Voices Praise Him</i> , No. 57)
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>I'm in Jesus' Family</i>	sticky labels, marker, crayons

gether, with their little ones. Some of the children had passed beyond the years of infancy to childhood and youth. When the mothers made known their desire, Jesus heard with sympathy the timid, tearful request. But He waited to see how the disciples would treat them. When He saw them send the mothers away, thinking to do Him a favor, He showed them their error. . . . He took the children in His arms, He laid His hands upon them, and gave them the blessing for which they came. . . .

"It is still true that children are the most susceptible to the teachings of the gospel; their hearts are open to divine

influences, and strong to retain the lessons received. . . .

"Fathers and mothers should look upon their children as younger members of the Lord's family" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 511-515).

Room Decorations

Continue to use the Israelite home and Temple decor used in Lessons 1-4. Add a large picture or felt stand-up of Jesus. A bulletin board might have a picture of Jesus with children. Around the picture, add photos or handprints/footprints with names of your Sabbath School children written on them.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week's memory verse and encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Baby Time

Ask a mother with a small baby to come to your class and talk about how gentle we need to be with babies (optional). Children can role-play caring for a baby with baby dolls.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do any of you have a baby in your family? Who loves babies? You were once a baby too. Today we will hear a story about Jesus' love for babies and little children. But no matter how old you are, Jesus loves you and wants you in His family. Today's message is:**



Jesus loves me! He wants me in His family!

Say that with me.

You Need:

- ☐ baby dolls and baby items
- ☐ mother with a baby (optional)

B. "Jesus Loves Me" Plate

Give each child a paper plate on which you have written "Jesus Loves Me" at the top. Help each child write their name at the bottom and draw a picture of themselves in the middle, then decorate the plate. Punch a hole in the center top, and fasten a piece of yarn. Send these home, or you can add them to your room decorations.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Whom does Jesus love? That's right! He loves everyone! Jesus loves children. He loves each of you very much. Do you love Him? Today we will hear a story about Jesus and some children. Today's message is:**



Jesus loves me! He wants me in His family!

Say that with me.

You Need:

- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ hole punch
- ☐ yarn or heavy string

C. Stay Away

Have a few adults or teenagers stand in a circle, holding hands. Have one adult stand in the middle as Jesus. Allow one child at a time to try to get through the clasped hands of the circle and stand in the middle with Jesus.

You Need:

☐ adults or teenagers

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How hard was it to get into the circle? Some people tried to keep children away from Jesus. Will someone try to keep us away from Him? Today's message is:**



Jesus loves me! He wants me in His family!

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study, and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "With Jesus in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 273)
- "Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 102)
- "My Best Friend Is Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 218)
- "Jesus, Friend of Little Children" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 110)
- "Jesus Loves the Children" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 106)
- "Jesus Loves the Little Ones" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 107)

Mission

Say: **Children live in many different countries all over the world. Jesus loves all children and wants them to be part of His family. Let's listen now to a story about a child who lives in a different part of the world.**

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **You brought your money so that children in all parts of the world can learn that Jesus loves them, too.**

Sing an offering song as the children put their offering in a container.

Prayer

Pray that all children in the world will know how much Jesus loves them. Thank Jesus for loving them so much.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

☐ older adults
(optional)

Experiencing the Story

Do the following finger play:

“Let Them Come”

The children came to Jesus.	Motion toward self.
His disciples sent them away.	Wave away.
Then Jesus said, “Let them come.”	Motion toward self.
And sit with Me today.”	Pat your lap.

Setting the scene:

Invite child-friendly older adults to Sabbath School, and have the children sit on their laps while the story is read. Or invite the children to sit around your chair. Ask the children to make their faces sad or happy at the appropriate times in the story.

Read or tell the story.

One day some mothers heard that Jesus was in their town. They had heard a lot about Jesus—He healed people, He told wonderful stories, and He was kind and loving to people. The mothers wanted Jesus to pray for their children and bless them. So they picked up their babies and held their other children’s hands as they went to find Him.

They found Jesus sitting under a tree, talking to some grown-ups. Jesus’ helpers were standing nearby. The helpers frowned at all the mothers and children [*children frown*] as they came near.

One of the mothers walked right up to the frowning men and said, “Excuse me. We would like to have Jesus pray for our children.”

One of the men frowned harder [*more frowning*]. “Jesus is busy,” he answered. “Come back later.” The frowning man didn’t think children were important. He thought they would just bother Jesus.

The mothers and the children were sad [*sad faces*]. They started to go back home. But Jesus saw what was happening. He stood up and said, “Let the little children come to Me. Don’t stop them. They’re part of My family” [*children smile*].

Then Jesus opened His arms, and a little girl ran to Him. He picked her up and hugged her. Soon all the children ran to Him.

What do you think Jesus did next? He let the children climb onto His lap. He let them touch His hands and His face. He let them give Him hugs and kisses. Jesus smiled at the children and laughed at their jokes. He hugged and kissed them back. He played peekaboo with the babies. He held each child in His arms and prayed for them.

The mothers were so happy that Jesus loved all the children and welcomed them into His family. Jesus loves you! He wants you in His family too.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

If you had lived when Jesus did, would you have tried to get close to Jesus? How would you have felt if someone had turned you away? What would you have said or done to Jesus if you had been one of the children who sat on His lap? Why do you think Jesus said “Let the children come to Me”? Remember our message? Let’s say it together:



Jesus loves me! He wants me in His family!

Bible Study

You Need:

- ☐ Bible

Open your Bible to Luke 18:15-17. Point to the text and say:

Here is where we find today's story in God's Word, the Bible. Read the text aloud.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Who brought their children and babies to Jesus? What did they want Jesus to do? What did the disciples tell the mothers? What did Jesus say? And what's our message?**



Jesus loves me! He wants me in His family!

Memory Verse

You Need:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ picture of Jesus (optional)

Turn to Luke 18:16. Hold the Bible so that the children can see the verse. Say: **This is where our memory verse is found in**

God's Word, the Bible. Read the text aloud. **"Let the little children come to me" (Luke 18:16, NIV).** Have the children repeat the verse after you, using the following motions:

Let the little children

Hold hand out with palm down as if to show how tall a small child is.



come

Beckon to come with hand.



to me.

Point to self.



Luke 18:16

Palms together, then open.



OR

Have the children repeat the memory verse as they walk toward a picture of Jesus. Repeat until all know the verse.

3

Applying the Lesson

Hugs From Jesus**You Need:**

- ☐ Jesus with children pictures (optional)
- ☐ *Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 57

Say: **Jesus loves you! He is not here in person to take you on His lap and hug you, but when your mothers or fathers or grandmas or grandpas or Sabbath School teachers hug you, they are acting just as Jesus did. Let's have a big group hug to remember how much Jesus loves you.**

Have the children form a circle, hold hands, step forward as far as possible, then put their arms around the person next to them. Then sing together "Run to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 57).

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Does Jesus think children are important in His family? Why do you think He wants you in His family? What are some of the ways Jesus shows His love to us today? Who does Jesus use to show His love to us? So let's remember:**



Jesus loves me! He wants me in His family!

If available, give each child a surprise gift of a picture of Jesus with some children.

4

Sharing the Lesson

You Need:

- ☐ sticky labels
- ☐ marker
- ☐ crayons

I'm in Jesus' Family

Beforehand, write "I'm in Jesus' Family" on a blank sticky label for each child. Have the children draw/decorate/color their label.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Whom does Jesus want in His family? Does He invite everyone to join Him? He especially loves children, but everyone is welcome in Jesus'

family. You've just made a name tag that says "I'm in Jesus' Family." As you wear your name tag this week, tell someone what it says, and tell them that Jesus wants them in His family too. And remember our message . . .

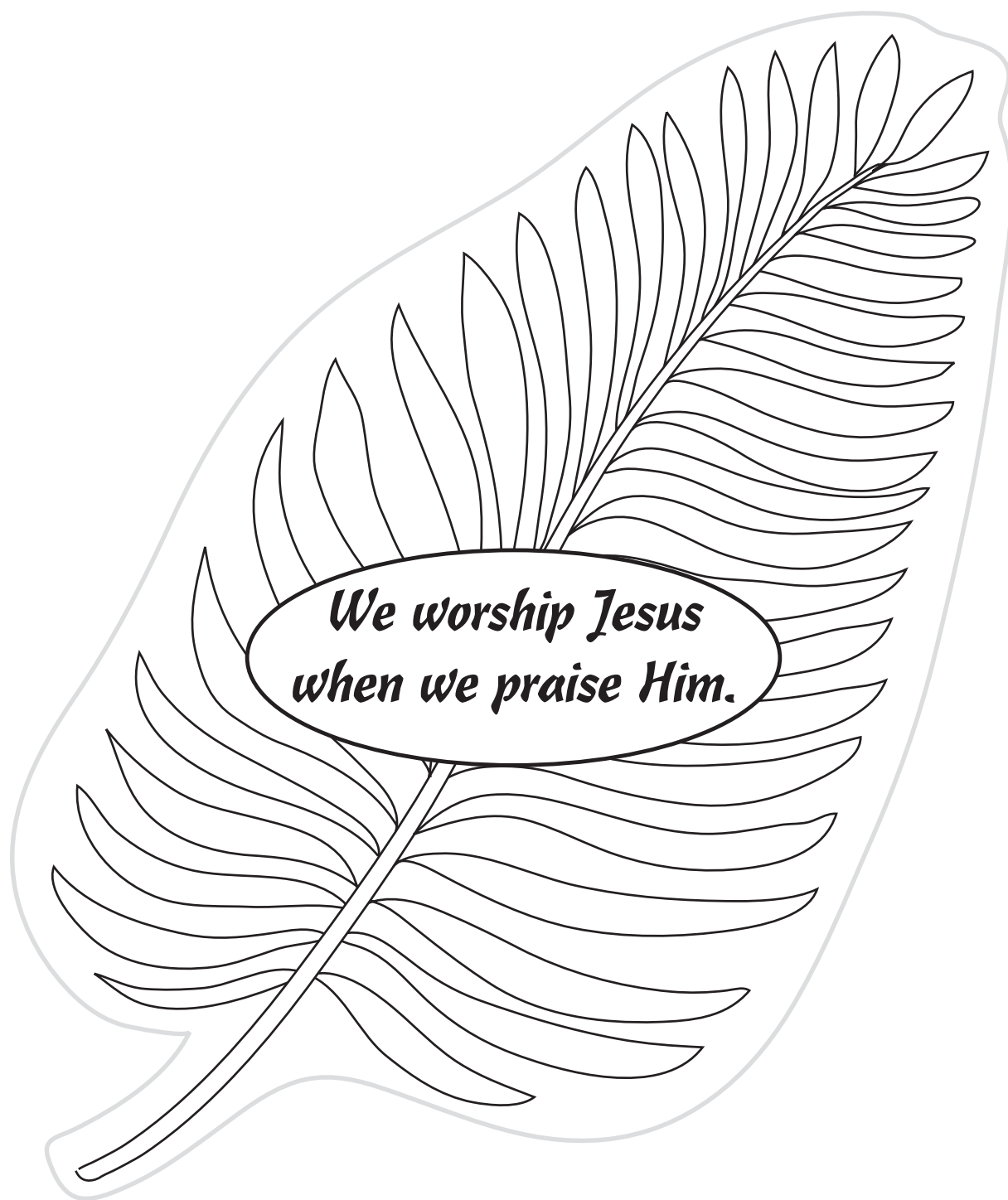


Jesus loves me! He wants me in His family!

Closing

Pray that this week the children will remember how much Jesus loves them.

Palm Leaf Pattern
For use with Lesson 9 - Sharing the Lesson



STUDENT LESSON

Let Them Come!

References

Luke 18:15-17;
The Desire of Ages,
 pp. 511-517

Who is your favorite grown-up besides your parents? Is it your grandma or grandpa? Your Sabbath School teacher? When Jesus was on earth, He was many children's favorite grown-up. Let's see why.

Memory Verse

"Let the little children come to me" (Luke 18:16, NIV).

The Message

Jesus loves me! He wants me in His family!

One day a little boy's mother heard that Jesus was in her town.* She didn't know where He was, so she asked her neighbor, "I heard that Jesus is in town. Do you know where He is? I want Him to pray for my little boy."

"Jesus is here?" the neighbor asked. "I'll come with you to find Him." The neighbor picked up her little girl. The two mothers walked quickly toward town.

Another mother saw them. "Where are you going?" she asked.

"We're going to find Jesus," the first mother said. "Come with us!"

"I will," said the mother. She called her two children.

"Come, children. We're going to see Jesus!"

As the mothers and their children hurried toward town, they saw more mothers with their children.

"They must know where Jesus is," the first mother said. "Let's follow them." So they did.

Finally they saw Jesus sitting under a tree. He was talking to some grown-ups. Jesus' helpers were standing nearby. They frowned at all the mothers and children.

One of the mothers walked right up to the frowning men and said, "Excuse me. We would like to have Jesus pray

for our children."

One of the men frowned harder. "Jesus is busy," he answered. "Come back later."

The mothers and the children were sad. They started to go back home. But

then Jesus stood up and spoke to the frowning man. "Let the little children come to Me. Don't stop them. They belong in My kingdom. They're part of My family."

Jesus opened His arms, and a little girl ran to Him. He picked her up and hugged her. Soon all the children ran to Him.

What did Jesus do next? He let the children climb onto His

lap. He let them touch His hands and His face. He let them gently pull His beard. He let them give Him hugs.

Jesus smiled at the children. He hugged and kissed them back. He played peekaboo with the babies. He held each child in His arms and prayed for him or her.

The mothers and the children were so happy that Jesus loved all the children and welcomed them into His family. Jesus loves us! He wants us in His family too!



*See *The Desire of Ages*, p. 511.

Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story together, and use the following motions to review the memory verse.

Let the little children Hold hand out with palm down as if to show how tall a small child is.

come Beckon to come with hand.
to me. Point to self.

Luke 18:16 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Read Luke 18:15-17 together. Ask: Would you have liked to see Jesus too? What do you think it would feel like to sit on Jesus' lap? What do you think He would say to you? Hold your child on your lap as you pray together.

Monday

Using a doll, role-play getting ready to meet with Jesus. Help your child wash the doll's face and hands, comb its hair, and dress it in clean clothes.



Tuesday

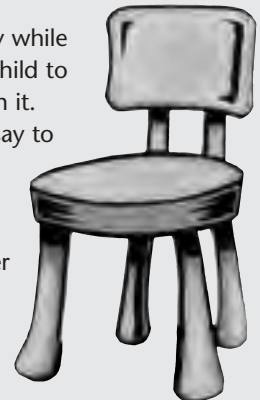
Help your child share the name tag made in Sabbath School. If your child didn't make one, cut out a name tag from paper, and write "I'm in Jesus'

Family" on it. Have your child share it with another child and tell them Jesus loves them.

Help your child name and count all the children they know. Ask: Does Jesus love all those children, too?

Wednesday

Set an empty chair nearby while you have worship. Tell your child to pretend that Jesus is sitting on it. Ask: What would you like to say to Jesus? Remind them that prayer is one way we talk to Jesus. Ask: What would you like to tell Jesus? Pray together and thank Jesus for hearing your prayers.



Thursday

Have your child sit on your lap as you sing together "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and "Jesus Loves Me." Have your child close their eyes and imagine they are sitting on Jesus' lap.

Friday

Role-play children trying to see Jesus, and the disciples keeping them away.

Help your child count the number of people in your family. Ask: How do they show you that they love you? How do you show that you love them? Thank Jesus for your family.